



General Meeting
Housing First
April 12
11:30 AM
2404 N. Howard

League Drinks
April 19
Post Street Ale House
5:30 - 7:30 PM
LWVWA Guests:
Kim Able and Sue Hughes

ANNUAL MEETING
May 12
5 PM
 Community Room
2404 N. Howard
 St. Andrew's Church

VOTER

SPOKANE'S "HOUSING FIRST" MODEL

The April meeting of LWV will feature Spokane's Housing First Model. We will have a panel that includes: City of Spokane Community and Neighborhood Services Director, Jonathan Mallahan; Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium Director, Cindy Alego; Jon Carollo from Volunteers of America and Sam Dompier, House of Charity. They will give a brief overview of their individual programs, Housing First Model and how it is being implemented in Spokane.

Every year in January, the homeless are counted throughout the nation. The numbers for 2016 are not yet available, but the 2015 numbers represent 722 households and 1033 homeless individuals. This is a 10% drop from the 2014 figures. However, a recent study by *Priority Spokane* found that the number of homeless youth is 33% higher than the state average and has increased 58% in the past 7 years. This homelessness is more defined by "couch surfing" than living on the streets. So the need for housing remains great in Spokane.

Ten years ago the state of Utah embarked on a plan to end homelessness. The state has experienced a 91% decrease in homelessness and less than 100 people are currently without homes. How did this occur? They built relationships with the homeless. They developed permanent housing for their homeless population rather than transitional housing. That means that the old model of requiring individuals to be clean and sober, non-felons, with no past rental problems was no longer required. Utah found that by letting folks come to live in housing without strings attached was actually more successful and, in the end, less money than the old guard. For a great overview on Utah's success, go to NPR, <http://www.npr.org/2015/12/10/459100751/utah-reduced-chronic-homelessness-by-91-percent-heres-how>.

Spokane is embarking on this model and has two housing units being developed through Catholic Charities and Volunteers of America. In a May 2015 article in *The Fig Tree*, Marilee Roloff, CEO of Volunteers of America, stated, "Previously homeless people had to sober up, have mental health therapy and complete drug treatment before they moved into housing. The idea with Housing First is that those issues can be confronted after a person moves in. People improve faster if we remove barriers to housing." And the cost savings is astronomical, a nearly 50% reduction in costs.

This should be a fascinating discussion, and we hope you can join us.

[Louise Chadez](#)

Calendar

- April 12 GENERAL MEETING, 11:30 AM, "Housing First" @ Office**
- 13 STATE BUDGET WK. SHOP, Building a Better Washington, 6-8PM. Contact: www.fusewashington.org**
- 19 League Drinks, 5:30- 7:30 at Post Street Ale House**
- 20 BOARD MEETING. 9 AM @ Office, Kim Abel and Sue Hughes will attend. Lunch following.**
- STATE BUDGET WK. SHOP, Roadshow 2016, 10AM-12PM**
- Contact: www.spokaneprogess.org**
- 26 City of Spokane; Emergency Medical Services Levy**
- May 12 Annual Meeting in the Community Room @ Office**

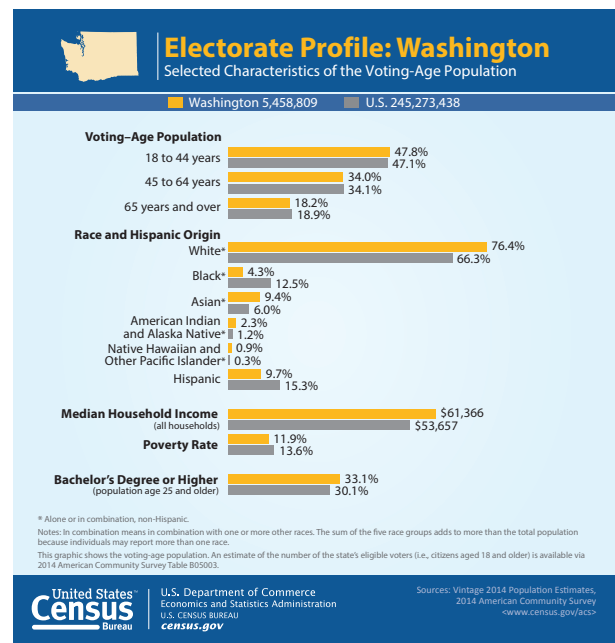
Notes from a meeting with Spokane County Auditor, Vicky Dalton, and staff on 3/15/16. Interviewed, at the request of LWVWA, by Pam Behring and Sally Phillips. Compiled by Sally Phillips.

Sources of voter registrations. About half of new registrations are from motor voter, 25% from online and the remainder from paper registrations.

Importance of signatures. If people have a drivers license or Washington State ID card, they can register to vote online, using the identification numbers provided in those documents. If they don't have one of these forms of identification, they can complete the voter registration form, print it out, sign it, and mail it in. A signature needs to be captured, whether from DMV data or from the printed, signed paper form.

Registering voters. Republican and Democratic parties use the voter data, as do national groups, and petition signature gatherers. Petition gatherers may register people to vote and, at the same time, get their signature on a petition. They make a photo copy of the registration to prove their work. About 10% of the registrations turn out to be fictitious. There's some concern about voter registration forms having sensitive personal information. Best way: sign up online. No security concerns, also saves election office having to key data.

Maintaining registration rolls. WA vote by mail system has four potential election dates. This tends to keep addresses 'fresh'. When ballots are sent out, there are usually 20-25% of ballots going to a wrong address. The



election office gets reports from the post office of bad addresses, or if there is a forwarding address. Elections updates their list from the post office notices. Voter addresses can also be updated from DMV reports. People can report a change online. The election office is 'constantly chasing people'.

Voter registration is managed at the state level. If a voter moves and registers in his new county, the old county is notified and cancels his old county registration. If a voter misses the deadline to register at his new address, he can still complete a ballot from his old location.

Cooperation across State lines. There have been several efforts to pool different states' voter databases in an effort to eliminate people voting in two different jurisdictions. In the records reviews the Auditor has done on an OR-WA pooling, where people were registered to vote in both locations, there were only 5 instances of people filing ballots in both places in the same year. Arizona was considering an agreement with OR-WA but declined to pursue it.

Canceling voter registrations. Voter records become inactive when the Auditor has an invalid mailing address. At this point, the election office sends an inquiry card to all known addresses for the person. If that same person then fails to vote in 2 successive federal elections, his voter registration is cancelled. Death notices from the Department of Health also cancel a voter's registration. Voters can cancel their voter registration, but people can't request a cancellation for someone else.

Voter education/information materials. The auditor does not produce a voter's information pamphlet, due to cost. A candidate's filing includes contact information, which is posted on the auditor's website. The elections office requests a photo and statement from the candidate, but many do not comply. The web-site posts the title and text of ballot issues but there are no pro/con statements. It has proved impossible to efficiently get supporters and opponents to provide ballot issue statements.

Barriers to voting. Not many in Washington. Citizens can register online, while transacting business at the Department of Motor Vehicles, or by printing out forms from the Secretary of State site and mailing or faxing the completed form to the County Elections Office.

New voters may register **in person** at the Elections Office, until 8 days before the election. Currently registered voters who want to report a change of address must do so at least 29 days before an election.

There are 19 ballot collection bins in Spokane County. Bins are open to accept ballots primarily only in areas where a ballot has been mailed. Collection bins located in places where there is high commuter traffic may also be open, even if ballots are not issued for that area. Ballots contain information about which collection boxes are open. Boxes are locked at 8 PM on election day. Election workers are stationed at each box at 8 PM to enforce the deadline. People who miss the 8 PM closing may be able to cast a ballot by driving to the Spotted Rd post office, where mail will be stamped with the current day's date up until 9 PM. In 2010, the election department received 1100 late ballots. In 2008, there were only 400. The difference: in 2008 the media was following elections closely and was constantly reminding people of the 8 PM deadline.

GOTV. Advertising seems to drive voter participation. This is done by media and campaigns, and is not the job of the Auditor's Office.

Civics Education. The Auditors Office is not currently providing civics education. Vicky Dalton said the most receptive students are in elementary and junior high. However, the schools don't have time in the curriculum for this instruction.

Issues/controversies. Some states allow election day registration. This is not feasible for mail-based systems. Election Day in our state is really devoted to tabulating ballots. People wait until the last minute. In 2008, 1800 people registered to vote on the last possible day before the general election.

US Census keeps track of voting statistics by state and demographic groups. See: <http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2015/demo/p20-577.pdf>

[Book review by Susan Gray](#)

THE SECRET HISTORY OF WONDER WOMAN by Jill Lepore

Despite what the title and the colorful cover may suggest, this book is far more than a history of the first female comic book superhero who arrived on the scene in December, 1941. *The Secret History of Wonder Woman* provides a fascinating look at how the militant political activism of women suffragists at the beginning of the 20th century led to the availability of safe, legal birth control as well as votes for women, dramatic changes in the way all American women are able to engage with the world today. But what makes this a “fun read” is how these changes were illustrated by the lives and careers of Wonder Woman creator William Moulton Marston and the two most important women in his life, Elizabeth Holloway Marston and Olive Byrne.

William and Elizabeth met in 8th grade and married after graduating from college in 1915, he from Harvard and she from Mount Holyoke. As college students, both William and Elizabeth were strong advocates for women's rights, including suffrage, and legal access to contraceptives and embraced thoroughly “modern” ideas about sex and sexuality. After graduating, both William and Elizabeth obtained law degrees. While a student at Harvard, William's studies in psychology focusing on various ways to detect deception led to his invention of the first “lie detector” machine; when studying law he was most interested in the rules of evidence and developing ways of evaluating the reliability of witness testimony. In 1921, he obtained a doctorate in psychology from Harvard and during his last year of graduate school, he started several small ventures, hoping to find ways to publicize and make money off his “lie detector” machine, but none were successful.

Soon afterwards, William Marston began an academic career as he began to develop theories on the mechanics of emotion and human sexuality as well as the detection of deception, holding faculty positions at several prominent universities including Tufts. There, in 1925 Olive Byrne, niece of birth control pioneer Margaret Sanger, became his undergraduate research assistant and continued to work closely with him on various research projects while studying for her doctorate in psychology at Columbia, though she never finished her dissertation. During that time, Olive and both the Marstons were part of a group of about ten friends who were part of a “cult of female sexual power” meeting at the home of William Marston's aunt, a nursing supervisor at a Boston hospital who held rather “New Age” religious views. How seriously the three of them took all this is hard to say, but in 1928 after the Marstons decided to start a family, William asked Olive to move in with him and Elizabeth. Though initially she had doubts, Elizabeth, by then a senior editor for the latest revised edition of the *Encyclopedia Britannica* who had no intention of quitting her job to stay at home with children, thought this might do.

Over the next four years, Olive and Elizabeth each had two children with Marston, though Olive, claiming to be a widow, never told her children the truth of who their father was. This arrangement seemed to suit them all and they formed a close family until Marston's death in 1947. Olive cared for all the kids so that Elizabeth, the full-time breadwinner, could devote herself to her career while William pursued his research, writing and occasional consulting gigs, becoming renowned for his theories on the detection of deception as well as human sexuality, the mechanics of emotion and feminism.

Olive also was a staff writer for the new woman's magazine *Family Circle*, contributing a number of interviews with “the world's most famous consulting psychologist,” Dr. William Marston (without disclosing to her readers their relationship). In one such interview, she asked him to weigh in on the appropriateness for children of the new comic book phenomenon of the 1930s. (He thought they were fine.) Later after being hired as an expert consultant by a major publisher of comic books to help fend off public criticism of the effect of comic book violence on children, the publisher encouraged William to create the enormously popular Wonder Woman, the comics' first female superhero, in 1941. It was enormously successful. Along with Superman and Batman, Wonder Woman was one of the few superheroes of the period to have her own comic book.

After the death of William Marston in 1947, Wonder Woman went downhill. Carried on by writers who didn't “get” Wonder Woman, she became more and more submissive, eventually even losing her superpowers, a reflection of the decline of the feminist movement after the end of World War II. In the early 1960s the women's movement underwent a revival starting with the advent of the birth control pill and the 1963 publication of Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique*; and culminating in the establishment of *Ms Magazine*, whose first cover featured Wonder Woman herself. But as discussed by Lepore in the Epilogue, this revival stalled in the late

1970s and 1980s, while an interest in scholarship in women's has history exploded. Though this happened in my adult lifetime, I would have appreciated a more detailed discussion or analysis of the events and conditions that led to this decline.

Elizabeth and Olive continued to live together for the rest of their lives, Olive dying in 1990 and Elizabeth in 1993 after living together for sixty-four years. Theirs was an incredible story.

*Next year, the Washington State Legislature will need to find billions of dollars for K-12 schools due to the McCleary Supreme Court decision. Two opportunities in April to learn about how our state might approach this problem are listed in the CALENDAR. Both organizations are concerned about the effect on other programs throughout the state if **new** revenue is not found.*



League Drinks: Post Street Ale House, 1 Post St., 5:30-7:30 on April 19. LWVWA board members, Kim Abel and Susan Hughes will share their perspectives on how to develop our membership and future League leaders. This will be in our usual informal format with attendees either ordering apps to share or their own dinners. Post Street will be making a special menu for us with our logo at the top--you don't want to miss this one! Linda Milsow 838-9186 / Lin McGinn 979-9378

Judicial Forum Worthwhile and Interesting

Our almost-annual Judicial Forum was held March 22 at the Gonzaga Moot Court. We had the honor of hearing from Judge Julie McKay, recent appointee to Spokane Superior Court; Patricia Walker, Presiding Judge of Spokane County District Court; and Michelle Szambelan, Presiding Judge, Spokane Municipal Court. Also in the audience was District Court Judge Aimee Maurer. Each of the judges gave an overview of her court and then Moderator Bev Austin asked them questions that broadened the scope of the topics.

They all stressed that they could not perform the jobs they do without the help of the court employees whom they feel are grossly overworked and underpaid. They also lauded the changes being made to help people move out of the "system" with implementation of programs that promote education, financial assistance and housing, as opposed to prison sentences.

They encouraged us to think about some of the volunteer positions they have available. These are too numerous to list here, but we do have brochures, which we will be happy to send to you and which will be available at our next meeting on April 20 (and at League Drinks!) on April 19. You can also contact Patrick Donahue, 477-2469, Volunteer Program Coordinator.

Special thanks to Mike Prager, Spokesman-Review, for getting information about the forum in the Voice section; The Inlander for listing us in their events section; KREM and VisitSpokane for putting us in their on-line calendars.

We were once again pleased to purchase delicious appetizers from New Leaf Bakery, an enterprise of the Transitions for Women program

\$70 Individual Dues: Local \$19 - State \$19 - Nat'l \$32
 \$105 Household; \$110 Sustaining Member; \$150 Benefactor
 \$ 35 Scholarship (call for application); \$ 35 Student

___ Yes, I want to join/renew membership in LWV/ Spokane Area

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: H _____ W _____

Fax: _____ e-mail _____

I would like to receive the newsletter by ___ mail or ___ email (please check one)

Please indicate amount enclosed: _____

Please make check payable to & mail to: LWVSA 2404 N. Howard St., Spokane WA 99205

Pay by Credit Card through Pay Pal at www.lwvspokane.org/join.html

Thank you, AVISTA, for printing the LWV Spokane “TRY’s” and for supporting our Elected Officials Luncheon.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
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TO:

“The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and influences the public policy through education and advocacy.”

